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prepare estimates so that we shall know just where we stand. We recommended Gelat under all circumstances where the help of a contractor may be needed.

I may add that Ehmann was the Architect for the Friends' School at Ramallah; of the present notable government house on the Mount of Olives and of several school and many other private and public buildings.

### OUR EXCAVATION AT TELL EL-FUL

It has long been the desire of the management of the School at Jerusalem to undertake some actual digging in Palestine. A modest effort of this kind has been launched in commissioning Director Albright to make a trial exploration at Tell el-Ful, a prominent site three miles north of Jerusalem, on the Nablus road. The Director selected this site and an appropriation of \$1000 has been made for this purpose.

A letter from the Director of March 19 reports that actual digging had been begun, and one day's digging had resulted in several baskets full of potsherds dating from the seventh to the second century B. C. Operations were then temporarily suspended by a quarrel—the usual thing in such cases—between the people of the two neighboring villages, which disputed the proprietary rights to the Tell.

### PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON TELL EL-FUL

Director Albright's preliminary excavations at Tell el-Ful have begun. Our readers will be interested in having the immediate reports of his results, and we give the following extracts from his letters. Of course all these current reports are subject to correction by subsequent findings.

March 19, 1922.

We have so far dug one day in Tell el-Ful, March 17. At the end of the day an altercation arose between Sha'fat and Beit Hannina, the two villages interested, and we put off the resumption of the work until Monday or Tuesday this week. Our first day resulted in the collection of six baskets full of potsherds and other small objects dating from the seventh to the third or second century before our era.

March 26, 1922.

We resumed excavations at Tell el-Ful Tuesday, March 21, and continued to yesterday, March 25, five days, in addition to our initial three-fourths of a day. Our force has varied this week from sixteen to twenty-five, besides the "overseer," who hires the men and boys, takes care of the tools, and keeps the other owners of the site quiet. As he owns a fourth of the site, it is useful to have him with us, though we have to do all the driving of the laborers. The first five days' wages were twenty pounds in all. We can thus work about three weeks longer.

We have dug trenches in various parts of the hill-top, and are now devoting all our attention to the *rujm*, or monticule on top, which is proving intensely interesting. The trenches brought to light foundations of house-walls, two wine-presses of different characters, and two grain-pits. The depth of debris was most irregular, ranging from some ten cm. a few rods out from the bottom of the *rujm* to as much as a metre and a half in one place just south of it. We collected quantities of potsherds, loom-weights, diorite grinders, and broken Jewish lamps from the trenches, all belonging,

with one or two exceptions, according to the expert opinion of Pere Vincent, with which I fully agree, to the period between the sixth and the third centuries. On top at various points we have found traces of Byzantine influence—hardly occupation—but the trenches revealed absolutely no sign of Hellenistic influence. We can thus state confidently that there was no village of a permanent nature on the *tell* except during the period of the restoration, though the top has been utilized for various purposes from the pre-exilic age down to the mediæval Arab period, as we shall presently see.

The excavation of the *rujm* is by no means completed, and we may have some surprises. At present we have found at least three superimposed fortresses, or *migdols*, dating respectively from the latest Canaanite or the earliest Israelite, about 1300–1100 B. C., the early kingdom, about 1000–800 B. C., and the Arab period. In my next report I will be able to furnish more exact information and photographs. We have interesting potsherds, walls and a Kufic coin by which to date the remains. The glacis of the first (?) *migdol* was six metres in height, and resembles very closely the glacis of the late Canaanite wall at Jericho. The walls from the interior of the second (?) *migdol* exhibit identically the same characteristic stonework as the so-called Solomonic palace at Megiddo. As you see, we have an unusually important and interesting task with which to usher in the series of archæological operations upon which we hope to enter. It is too early to attempt to correlate the archæological material with the literary indications, but I am convinced that we really have Gibeah.

April 2, 1922.

As a result of a little more work and extended study I would like to make a number of corrections in my report of a week ago. To my great surprise the northern terrace, below the surface of the *tell*, proved to conceal the pre-exilic, and afterwards the Roman Gibeah; the post-exilic village was built on the very summit as previously announced. The highest *migdol* is emphatically not Arab, but post-exilic, as shown by the potsherds found in it. The *migdol* beneath I would tentatively assign to the reign of Asa, and the *migdol* below that, to which the glacis may have belonged—this question can only be solved by further researches—presumably to the eleventh century. We do not know yet whether the third *migdol* is the oldest on the site or not. The glacis is very different from the glacis of the late Canaanite wall at Jericho. The glacis seems to be dated by the pebble-burnished red bowl fragments found at its base, as elsewhere at the lower levels; pebble-burnished pottery came in with the Philistines about 1150 B. C., a fact which points to an early Israelitic occupation of the site, but hardly favors a Canaanite occupation.

Together with our final report on the excavation, I hope to give an elaborate topographical study of the district north of Jerusalem, with a revision of the published material, and some new identifications. Tell en-Nasbeh I would identify with Beeroth, for reasons to be given hereafter.

## GIBEAH OF SAUL AND BENJAMIN

BY DIRECTOR ALBRIGHT

Remarkable as it may seem, not one of the important early Hebrew sites of Palestine has yet been dug. Up to the present, work has been car-

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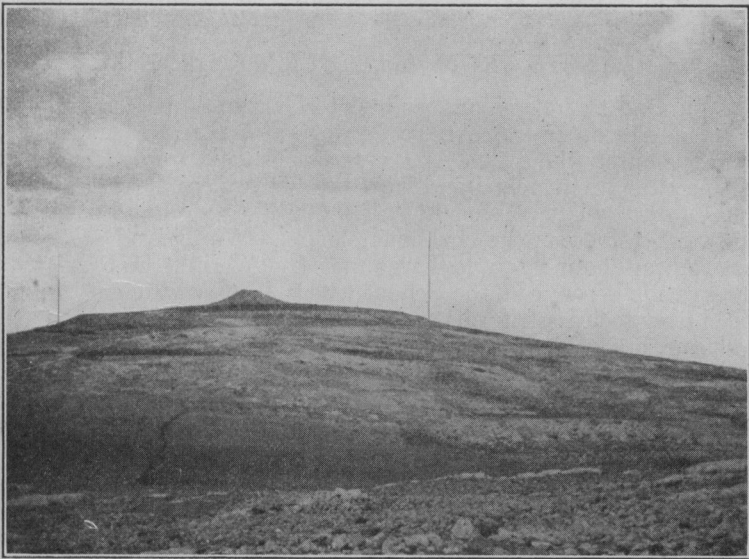
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TELL EL-FUL FROM THE SOUTH; SCENE OF OUR EXCAVATIONS